

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 legislative session is nearing its end. We are wading through hundreds of bills and working hard to craft a budget for the citizens of Connecticut. At this point, many concepts, ideas and bills get folded or amended into others, while many others die.

As Senate chair of the Transportation Committee, I have been particularly busy this year trying to help craft a comprehensive solution to our state's transportation crisis. There have been many and varying ideas put before the legislature this year to address our transportation issues, and on how to fund these changes.

In an effort to keep you well informed of the work we do in Hartford, on the reverse of this mailer I highlight some of those ideas, from both Republicans and Democrats. Please keep in mind that as of this writing, none of these concepts have become law, but I think it is important that you know we take everything into consideration and always keep an open mind.

I will update you again after the legislative session has ended. In the meantime, please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Biagio "Billy" Ciotto
State Senator, 9th District



Your State Senator

BIAGIO "BILLY" CIOTTO

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FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR
BIAGIO "BILLY" CIOTTO

2006 TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES & CONCEPTS

Tolls

There is renewed interest in bringing tolls back to Connecticut due to decreases in the amount of funding coming from the federal government. Many people look at tolls as a future steady source of revenue to improve our transportation infrastructure. With the advent of electronic tolls, the hope is to have toll booth-free toll roads. The Connecticut Department of Transportation recently submitted an application to the federal government to study placing tolls on our highways.



Mass Transit

There are several proposals being debated this session at the Capitol regarding improving our transportation infrastructure. Mass transit is a very hot topic. Here are some of the proposals currently being considered:

- Establish a commuter rail line from New Haven through Hartford into Springfield with a connection to Bradley Airport.
- Build a busway from New Britain to Hartford. Similar to a successful busway in Pittsburgh, there would be a dedicated roadway for buses along this corridor, with full stations along the way. Incorporated into this proposal is the idea of Transit Oriented Development which will encourage mixed-use development near these stations to promote the use of the busway.
- There are also several proposals to establish Bus Rapid Transit services in the state. One such BRT is planned for Southeastern Connecticut that will link the Mystic area with the casinos and the Norwich area.



Highway Safety/Weigh Stations

Highway safety, especially regarding trucks on our highway, has been a main focus of the Legislature since the Avon Mountain disaster over a year ago. We have made changes in laws regarding insurance to make sure trucks are insured at all times. The legislature is also considering proposals to increase enforcement efforts on our roads:

- Using electronic monitoring devices to make sure people are observing the speed limit and stopping at traffic lights.
- Placing more officers from the Department of Motor Vehicles onto our highways so they can look for unsafe trucks.
- Increasing the hours of operation of our weigh stations.

